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therefore his findings prove nothing at present. I have no doubt that yellow fever will reach Monterey this season, probably late, unless its further advance is stopped at Linares, as the country from Montemorelos to Monterey is full of small villages and ranches where disease will scatter broadcast. It will then be impossible to keep it out of Monterey. The rains have been plentiful and mosquito-breeding places are numerous.

*Conditions at Monterey—Precautions taken by Mexican Government.*

LAREDO, TEX., August 17, 1903.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge telegram dated August 10, 1903, viz:

Proceed Monterey. Submit nomination and place on duty temporary acting assistant and three guards. Upon completion duty rejoin station.

Telegram received in evening late, but selected temporary acting assistant and guards to report to me early in morning for duty. August 11 instructed temporary acting assistant on train; also placed on duty guards, one on footbridge, the other two at railroad bridge.

I took afternoon train of August 11 for Monterey and telegraphed bureau from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, I had left for Monterey. August 12 arrived at Monterey.

Monterey, Mexico, the capital of the State of Nuevo Leon, has about 75,000 inhabitants, probably more including the municipality, with an area of  $26\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. The altitude of city is 1,624 feet. Distance by railroad from Laredo, Tex., 168 miles; from Eagle Pass, Tex., 284 miles; from Tampico, 322 miles; from Victoria (now infected), 175 miles; from Linares (1 case yellow fever in July), 90 miles.

I found the streets fairly clean. The central portion of the city is paved with semivitrified brick and cobblestone. The center of city is pretty well drained, being rolling. The three trunk lines of railroads, viz, Mexican Central, National de Mexico, and International, have their freight and passenger depots in the same part of city within a few blocks of each other. This is a low part of the city and water accumulates and stands for some time, therefore a good breeding ground for mosquitoes.

Consul-General Hanna, who had been taking quite an interest in the quarantine and health of city, was pleased that I had come to look over situation; he knew of no cases nor suspicion of cases, and he frequently inquires. Visited railroad engineer reported sick with yellow fever at Monterey Hospital (he was reported at Laredo to be under quarantine or guard) that evening, and I found him not under guard and suffering from an attack of appendicitis.

I saw Doctor Turpin, at one time acting assistant surgeon Marine-

Hospital Service, at Mexico City during 1899. He had not seen anything to arouse his suspicions. He also informed me that he had caught and examined several mosquitoes and as yet had not found any stegomyia.

Morning of the 13th I had a consultation with the governor of the State, who received me cordially and told me the steps he had taken to prevent the introduction of the disease. He confirmed my information about Linares having had yellow fever. He stated the latter part of July a person died there from fever, having come from Tampico. No cases since then, but it now should have a crop from that case, and I therefore consider it suspicious and persons from there are detained.

The governor informed me that a lazaretto and detention station were being completed at Maguierar, a station on the border line of the State. There are practically no inhabitants at this point. The buildings are to be quite complete, consisting of buildings to accommodate those having disease, suspicious cases, and persons detained but not having any suspicious disease; also accommodations for physicians and employees, etc. This is to be completed about the end of the coming week, so that it can be occupied. It will cost, when finished, \$20,000 (Mexican).

I obtained a written order from the governor to those in charge of death register records to allow me to see them myself. During the day I made the acquaintance of and interviewed eight physicians, and, although they nearly all had cases of typhoid fever on hand, none had anything suspicious. I had a consultation with the British vice-consul, a practicing physician, who was at Monterey during the former epidemic of 1898, and he assured me of nothing at present. I examined the record of deaths during month of August from 1st to 14th, inclusive, and found typhoid fever 4, remittent fever 3, pernicious intermittent 1, other causes 80; total, 88 for fourteen days.

The status as I found it at present between Monterey and Tampico is as follows: A shuttle passenger train leaves Tampico daily for a point named Gonzales, 61 miles from Tampico. All passengers are inspected at Tampico, temperature taken, etc. At Gonzales, three hours from Tampico, a change of cars, temperature, pulse, and general condition, with name of person, are noted on a card retained by passenger. Just before arriving at Victoria, the capital of the State, another similar inspection is made and noted on person's card, and all persons destined for Victoria are required to furnish their addresses. Victoria is divided into districts and a physician appointed for each district. These addresses are furnished to physician in charge of district where person resides or lives for the present and the doctor visits him daily for ten days. If anything develops he is isolated and protected from mosquitoes. Victoria has an altitude of 1,473 feet,

population about 10,000, and is about six hours distant by rail from Tampico.

Passengers are again now inspected at State line, where there is a detention station nearing completion. All those showing symptoms are detained. Others have temperature, etc., noted on card, and proceed. Again at Linares an inspection is made, as before, with same precaution. Linares has a population of about 8,000; altitude, 1,187 feet—that is the last inspection on line. No fruit from infected places is allowed to enter Monterey. Freight trains with crews run through to Tampico; but train is supposed to be ready at Tampico for immediate return; but I am informed by railroad employees that sometimes they are delayed there from two to four hours. The crews live in Monterey (which is bad). Cars are disinfected with sulphur dioxide at Gonzales, and since my arrival they have commenced refumigating cars at State line with same disinfectant. I am to be informed of first suspicious case at Monterey.

There is no precaution taken where passenger goes after arrival at Monterey. No disinfection of baggage. Between Victoria and Tampico the Federal and State health authorities are erecting a lazaretto which will cost \$40,000; therefore I suppose with sufficient buildings for all purposes, but no detention of well passengers or persons.

After leaving Monterey at a siding called Sanchez, 12 miles from United States border, a quarantine has been established by the city of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, against Tampico and Victoria, where all persons from those points are detained and a certificate issued to them of such detention; also all persons, not train crew, found on freight trains are arrested and detained irrespective of where they claim to be from. Freight trains as a rule pass this place at night. I found they had six persons in detention, taken from freight trains. This is of great benefit to service at this port, as the freight trains arrive at Nuevo Laredo at night and are broken up as such at that place. The passenger-train inspection does not amount to much.

I believe it is probable that yellow fever will reach Monterey. There has been an abundance of rain and the breeding grounds for mosquitoes about and in Monterey are plentiful.

Respectfully,

H. J. HAMILTON,  
*Acting Assistant Surgeon, Public Health  
and Marine-Hospital Service.*

*Statistical reports of States and cities of the United States—Yearly and monthly.*

CALIFORNIA.—Reports to the State board of health for the month of July, 1903, from 42 localities having an aggregate estimated population of 1,032,068, show a total of 1,291 deaths, including diphtheria